



United States Department of Agriculture
Research, Education and Economics
Agricultural Research Service

November 15, 2005

SUBJECT: North Atlantic Area Environmental Management System Policy Statement

TO: All North Atlantic Area Employees

FROM: John A. Crew, Deputy Area Director, NAA

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "John A. Crew".

Executive Order (E.O.) 13148, "Greening the Government through Leadership in Environmental Management," requires each Federal agency to develop and implement an Environmental Management System (EMS) at its locations by December 31, 2005.

Enclosed for your use is the North Atlantic Area, Agricultural Research Service's EMS Policy Statement. Please disseminate and communicate this policy to employees, contractors, and stakeholders.

The North Atlantic Area EMS website is located at <http://www.ars.usda.gov/Services/docs.htm?docid=7298>. It contains the resources and information necessary in meeting these program requirements. We greatly appreciate your commitment to environmental excellence as we further enhance mission performance and the effective use of our resources.

If you have any questions, please contact Bonnie DiSalvo, Area Safety and Health Manager (ASHM) at (215) 233-6592 or the Cluster Environmental Specialists (CEPS) Glen A. Davis at (304) 725-3451, Extension 309 and/or Kathie C. Moh at (607) 255-8849.

Enclosure to follow

Filename: EMS_November_14_05.doc



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North Atlantic Area Environmental Policy and Accountability

The mission of each North Atlantic Area (NAA) Agricultural Research Service (ARS) location is to conduct research to develop solutions for agricultural problems of high national priority. In conjunction with this mission, NAA is committed to protecting human health and the environment; meeting or exceeding Federal, State, and local laws, regulations, codes and guidelines; and employing sustainable pollution prevention practices. The NAA Environmental Management System (EMS) builds upon the existing ARS Safety, Health and Environmental Management Program and is designed to be an integral part of scientific research activities, project review processes, facility operations, and ARS Policy & Procedures. NAA will strive to minimize impacts and continually improve its environmental performance by:

- Maintaining a policy of commitment to environmental excellence.
- Developing annual objectives, targets, and actions to advance the EMS program performance in terms of both regulated and unregulated impacts.
- Considering environmental impacts in research planning, policy formulation, procurement actions, and operating decisions.
- Adhering to Federal, State, and local laws and regulations, permit requirements, and Departmental and ARS policies and procedures.
- Identifying and requesting the necessary resources to successfully carry out identified objectives and targets.
- Providing personnel with appropriate training, ensuring they are aware of environmental roles and responsibilities, and accountable for their performance and actions, including recognizing them for outstanding performance.
- Effectively communicating NAA's commitment to the environment to employees, partners, stakeholders, customers and the general public, and solicit input in developing and achieving objectives and targets for the EMS program.
- Routinely monitor environmental operations and conduct periodic inspections, audits, and reviews to ascertain that applicable standards are met, and EMS program effectiveness is evaluated.
- Correcting identified deficiencies in a timely manner and taking appropriate steps to prevent their recurrence.
- Clearly documenting and reporting the progress and achievements related to this policy.